

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

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AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

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PASS: LABOR AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO,PFOR,AORG,IS,UR,PE,CI,VS

SUBJ: ILO-ROUNDUP OF 59TH SESSION, INTERNATIONAL

LABOR CONFERENCE, JUNE 5-25, 1974

1. SUMMARY. 59TH ILO CONFERENCE COMPLETED AN UNUSUALLY HEAVY TECHNIAL AGENDA AND, IN THE MAIN, THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES DID THEIR WORK WELL. AS IN RECENT PAST CONFERENCES, HOWEVER, POLITICAL ISSUES (E.G. RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, REPRESENTATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ETC) DOMINATED THE INTEREST OF THE CONFERENCE AT THE EXPENSE OF ISSUES MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE MANDATE OF THE ILO. PLENARY SITTINGS HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER REPORTS OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND DEVOTED FULL SITTINGS TO DEBATES ON POLITICAL ISSUES. RESULTS OF CONFERENCE A MIXED BAG. ON POSITIVE SIDE WERE ITS TECHNICAL WORK, THE FAILURE
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OF THE PLO TO ACHIEVE OBSERVER STATUS AT THIS SESSION,

AND THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIETS TO AMEND THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS TO REMOVE THE USSR FROM THE "SPECIAL LIST" FOR ITS VIOLATION OF CONVENTION 29 (FORCED LABOR). ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE WERE THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AND CHILE WHICH BLANTANTLY IGNORED ILO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES OF DUE PROCESS, AND THE FAILURE OF THE UNAMENDED REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS TO BE ADOPTED FOR LACK OF QUORUM. USDEL CONSIDERS THAT, IN BLANCE, THIS CONFERENCE LESS SUCESSFUL THAN LAST YEARS' BECAUSE: A) TREND TOWARD POLITICIZING MORE PRONOUNCED, B) GROWING TREND TO DISREGARD ILO CONSITUTIONAL PROCESSES, AND C) WE GOVERNMENTS APPEAR MORE RELUCTANT TO RESIST THAT TREND. END SUMMARY.

2. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES: THE CONFERENCE TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

- A. ADOPTED A CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION ON OCCUPATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION;
- B) ADOPTED A CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION ON PAID EDUCATIONAL LEAVE;
- C. ADOPTED THE CONSLCUSIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS (FIRST DISCUSSION) FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE 60TH SESSION;
- D. ADOPTED THE CONSLUSIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (FIRST DISCUSSION) AND FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE 60TH SESSION;
- E. ADOPTED THE CONCLUSIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS (FIRST DISCUSSION) FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE 60TH SESSION.

3. STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A. APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. ILO'S ONLY MEANS OF PRESSURING MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT RATIFIED CONVENTIONS IS THROUGH THIS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. AN EXPORT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF NOTED JURIST FROM MANY COUNTRIES (INCLUDING SEVERAL FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES) ASSESSES WHETHER MEMBER STATES HAVE BROUGHT THEIR NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFORMITY WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ILO CONVENTIONS THAT THEY HAVE RATIFIED. COMMITTEE OF EXPORTS SUBMITS ITS FINDINGS TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH REVIEWS GENERAL SITUATION CONCERNING APPLICATION OF ILO STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDS ACTION IN CASES OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PLACED USSR ON A "SPECIAL LIST" FOR HAVING FAILED TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF FORCED

LABOR CONVENTION (NO. 29) WHICH IT HAD RATIFIED. USSR ATTEMPTED TO GET A SEPARATE VOTE ON PARAGRAPH COVERING ITS VIOLATIONS, IN HOPE OF AMENDING THE REPORT BY DELETION THAT PARAGRAPH. THAT EFFORT FAILED. THE VOTE ON THE UNAMENDED REPORT AS A WHOLE THEN FAILED ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS OF ILO'S QUORUM RULE, WHICH PROVIDES THAT A VOTE IS VOID IF THE SUM OF THE VOTES FOR AND AGAINST IS LESS THAN HALF OF THE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. THE VOTE WAS 123 FOR, NONE AGAINST, WITH 156 ABSTENTIONS, AND THE QUORUM WAS 206. THE REPORT AS A WHOLE, THEREFORE, WAS NOT ADOPTED. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS IN THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS, SINCE IT WAS FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY SESSION, ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT VARIOUS COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE USSR) BE CITED FOR VIOLATIONS HAS NO OFFICIAL STATUS AS AN ILO CONFERENCE ACTION.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES CONFERENCE CONFIRMED GOVERNING BODY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT ILO OVER COMING THREE YEARS INTEGRATE ITS SCALE OF ASSESSMENT WITH THAT OF UN, ALLOWING ONLY FOR DIFFERENCES IN MEMBERSHIP. AS FIRST STEP, CONFERENCE APPROVED CY 1975 SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS IN WHICH THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE 62 MINIMUM SCALE COUNTRIES WILL BE LOWERED FROM .05 TO .04 PERCENT. BYELORUSSIA REMAINS SAME IN CY 1975 (.47 PERCENT) BUT UKRAINE IS INCREASED FROM 1.67 TO 1.68, AND USSR FROM 10.45 TO 11.28 PERCENT, US REMAINS AT 25 PERCENT.

4. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A. ISRAEL. COMMITTEE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI AUTHORITIES FOR ALLEGED POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THIS WAS MODIFIED VERSION OF SIMILAR RESOLUTION THAT FAILED LAST YEAR ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. THE ARAB SPONSORS HAD MASTERED ALL PROCEDURAL ASPECTS IN THE INTERIM, AND MOVED RES THROUGH ALL STAGES IN COMMITTEE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. VOTE IN PLENARY, HOWEVER, WAS 224-0-122 (US), ONLY SIX VOTES OVER THE NECESSARY QUORUM WHICH WAS 218 AT THE TIME. (REF GENEVA 3814)

B. CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING CHILE FOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS. 224-1 (CHILEAN GOVT)-124 (US). QUORUM AT THIS TIME WAS 208. MAJORITY OF LAS ABSTAINED. GOVERNING BODY HAD ALREADY AUTHORIZED AND FUNDED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO VISIT CHILE, AND GOC HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE COMMISSION. CONFERENCE CHOSE NOT TO WAIT FOR RESULTS OF COMMISSION'S INQUIRY, WHICH WOULD HAVE MEANT DELAYING ACTION UNTIL JUNE 1975, AND PROCEEDED TO CONDEMNATION WITHOUT USING

THE ILO'S ESTABLISHED MACHINERY FOR INVESTIAGINT SUCH
SITUATION.

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C. CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING ON
GOVERNING BODY TO STUDY QUESTION OF ILO FINANCING OF
TRIPARTITE DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
FROM LDCS WHO FIND EXPENSES OF FULL DELEGATION TO BE
EXCESSIVE. USDEL HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED THIS RES FOR
YEARS, BUT ABSTAINED ON RES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE ITS
POSITION IN GOVERNING BODY DEBATE OF ISSUE. WE DO NOT
ANTICIPATE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THIS
BEFORE 1978-79 BIENNIUM. WORKING PARTY FOR EXAMINATION
OF ISSUE CONSTITUTED BY GOVERNING BODY JUNE 25 COMPOSED
OF JAMAICA, AUSTRALIA, AND USSR. USSR ON RECORD AS
OPPOSING SUCH FINANCING. FRANCE IS A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER,
SHOULD TITULAR MEMBER NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND WORKING
PARTY, WHICH PROBABLY WILL MEET EARLY NOV 1974.

D. CONFERENCE ADOPTED RES CALLING ON GOVERNING
BODY "TO STUDY AS A MATTER OF URGENCY THE POSSIBILITY OF CON-
VENING A TRIPARTITE WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT,

INCOME DISTRIBUTION, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS..."

E. CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON WORKING ENVIRONMENT.
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ENVIRONMENT INVITING GOVERNING BODY TO INSTRUCT DIRECTOR GENERAL TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN PREPARING INTEGRATED PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ALL ASPECTS OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

5. STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

NO SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED DURING NUMEROUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PROTRACTED DEBATE. COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION TO FORM A WORKING PARTY WHICH WOULD BE COMPOSED OF SIX GOVERNMENT AND THREE WORKER AND EMPLOYERS EACH CHOSEN FROM THE GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP AND A LIKE NUMBER FROM NON-GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP. THE WORKING PARTY IS AS FOLLOWS: A) APPOINTED BY THE CONFERENCE: 1) GOVERNMENTS OF ALGERIA, BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN AND VENEZUELA, 2) EMPLOYERS OF CAMEROON, TURKEY AND USSR, 3) WORKERS OF CUBA, FRANCE, AND SIERRA LEONE. B) APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY: 1) GOVERNMENTS OF GHANA, ITALY, MEXICO, USA, AND USSR, 2) EMPLOYERS OF ARGENTINA, IRAN, AND USA, 3) WORKERS OF CANADA, INDIA, AND USSR.

6. CHINA. THE PRC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS NOTIFIED THE PRC THAT IT HAS LOST ITS VOTE BECAUSE OF BEING MORE THAN TWO YEARS BEHIND IN PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENTS, BUT THE PRC HAS NOT REPLIED TO THIS NOTICE. USDEL DOUBTS THAT PRC WILL EVER PAY ASSESSMENTS TO ILO PRIOR TO DATE ON WHICH IT MAY ACTIVATE ITS MEMBERSHIP.

7. VIETNAM

THERE WERE NO VIETNAMESE ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE, NOR WAS VIETNAM THE OBJECT OF ANY ATTACKS. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TURNED IN A RESTRAINED AND MODERATE PERFORMANCE. THE PRC DID NOT REQUEST TO APPLY FOR OBSERVER OR OTHER STATUS WITH ILO.

8. SHORTENING OF CONFERENCE

AT REQUEST OF GOVERNING BODY, THE OFFICE (SECRETARIAT) COMPRESSED SCHEDULE AND CUT WORKING DAY OFF END OF CONFERENCE.
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CONFERENCE. NO CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES WERE ELIMINATED, AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO HOLD SOME EXTRA SATURDAY AND NIGHT SESSIONS NOT NORMALLY HELD. THIS CAUSED SOME ROUGH SPOTS, AS WE EXPECT STIFF OPPOSITION SHOULD THERE BE AN EFFORT TO FURTHER REDUCE LENGTH OF THE CONFERENCE. THIS IS SECOND DAY BY WHICH SCHEDULE HAS BEEN REDUCED OVER PAST TWO YEARS, AND WE MAY HAVE GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN IN REDUCING WORKING TIME OF CONFERENCE WITHOUT CHOPPING OFF ENTIRE ACTIVITIES.

9. POLITICAL DEBATE

DEBATE ON DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT HAS BEEN A WHICH PRINCIPLE ARENA FOR POLITICAL ATTACKS IN ILO, WAS NOT AS CONTENTIOUS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

220 DELEGATES SPOKE ON THE REPORT, WHICH IS FEWER THAN IN 1973 OR 1972. ONLY ATTACKS ON USG WERE MADE BY CUBAN GOVT AND WORKER DELS. CUBAN EMPLOYER DEL SPOKE BUT DID NOT ATTACK US. US EXERCISED RIGHT TO REPLY TO BOTH CUBAN ATTACKS. THIS YEAR, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT DELAYED REPLIED UNTIL THE END OF SITTING, RATHER THAN PERMITTING IMMEDIATE REPLY. USSR WORKER DEL MADE SHARP AND VIGOROUS REPLY TO ATTACH ON SOVIET UNION MADE BY US WORKER DEL BERT SEIDMAN, BUT CAREFULLY LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO AFL-CIO, SEIDMAN, AND GEORGE MENAY, AND DID NOT ATTACK USG. ABRAMS

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